Government is promoting foreign as well as domestic tourism in the country including Pondicherry through its 13 overseas offices by advertising in print & electronic media, participation in travel fairs, inviting media and Travel Agents on familiarization trips, extensive use of Information Technology in tourism promotion etc. Domestic tourism is encouraged through 21 domestic offices within India.

(c) During 2000-2001,3 projects were sanctioned for Rs. 26.18 lakhs and in 2001-2002, 3 projects have been sanctioned for Rs. 78.61 lakhs for development and promotion of tourism in the Pondicherry.

(d) Does not arise.

New Cultural Policy

4359. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a new cultural policy;

(b) what is the status of the proposal and by when it is likely to be announced;

(c) whether specific provisions are proposed to be incorporated for bringing legislation to protect cultural heritage sites and properties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The formulation of a National Policy on Culture is under consideration of the Government. As such, no specific details can be given at this stage.

New UNESCO rules

4360. SHRI YADLAPATIVENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new UNESCO rules prohibit repetition of application for grant of World Heritage sites rejected within two years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to represent the UNESCO so that application rejected for incomplete information should not come under the new restrictions?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) While the new UNESCO rule do not prohibit repetition of applications for grant of World Heritage Status to sites rejected within two years, the new policy resolved in December 2000 and implemented from February 2002 restricts nominations to only one per country.

Therefore, only one of the eleven proposals returned in 1998 was recast and submitted in January 2002.

Investigative study of history into historical and ruined buildings

† 4361. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government for investigative study of history;

(b) whether it is proposed to investigate and conduct research afresh by new scientific means into historical and ruined buildings situated throughout the county;

(c) whether excavation work is being carried out at any place at present; and

(d) if so, the progress thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Government has made multifarious efforts for investigative study of history by undertaking archaeological explorations, excavations epigraphical, architectural and archival surveys and studies.

(b) There is no such proposal to investigate and conduct research afresh throughout the country, although study through advanced scientific methods is undertaken on selected monuments as was done and is being done at Ajanta, Ellora, Bhimbetka and the Taj Mahal.

(c) and (d) The progress of the ongoing excavations conducted through April, 2002 is given in the Statement *(See* below).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.